

**Testimony of Albert F. May, Jr.
Director of Development
Christian Community Action
New Haven, CT**

**Concerning S.B. 219
An Act Concerning The Neighborhood Assistance Act**

**Respectfully submitted to
The Commerce Committee
February 28, 2012**

My name is Albert F. May, Jr. and I am the Director of Development at Christian Community Action. We are a relatively small (less than 20 full-time employees) nonprofit ecumenical New Haven-based social services agency, whose mission is to help families that are homeless and people who are poor to regain their independence and self-sufficiency. I am also the founder and past chairperson of the Not-for-Profit Resource Council of the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce, an organization composed of more than 250 nonprofit organizations operating in greater New Haven.

I am offering this testimony in support of S.B. 219, An Act Concerning The Neighborhood Assistance Act. Unfortunately and ironically, I cannot deliver this testimony in person, as I am moderating a panel discussion on this subject today at the monthly meeting of the Not-for-Profit Resource Council in New Haven.

Created back in the early 1980s, the Neighborhood Assistance Act was designed to provide state tax credits to certain types of businesses, in exchange for their support of municipal and tax-exempt organizations. Last year, the State Legislature enacted needed reforms in this program, reforms that were designed to expand the types of businesses eligible for these tax credits and increase the amount of credits available to an individual business from \$75,000 to \$150,000, subject to an overall program cap of \$5,000,000, which remained unchanged from what it was in the past.

While the increase in the amount of tax credits available to an individual business did take place, the expansion of the types of businesses that could be eligible for these credits did not, due to technical problems with the legislation passed last year. My understanding is that the intent of S.B. 219 is to do nothing more than correct these technical problems so that the legislative intent of last year's bill can be fully realized.

On behalf of my colleagues in the nonprofit community in this state and myself, I would like to take positive action on this bill. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.